

Practice ma

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Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Unger, 387th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, leads a four-man team towards a house entrance. The "mission" was part of training at the Mobile MOUT site July 23 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

One by one the team crept along the wall. Once at the door, the team stops and waits. A slight nudge gets them going as they run through the door.

"Check the upstairs," the team leader shouts as women and children shout. "Check down the hall as well."

"Basement," a team member cries out.

With weapons trained, they walk to the basement door.

"Open it carefully," the leader says.

And so opens training at the Mobile Military Operations on Urban Training site at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. While this was just an exercise, for the members of the 387th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, it may mean real life.

"What we teach here is tactics that may be used in a real life situation," said Air Force Staff Sgt. William McCoy, the non commissioned officer in charge, Kuwait City International Airport. "Things like room-clearing procedures, hostage situations, or if a



Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Unger and Marine Lance Cpl. William Peeks demonstrate how to "pie" around a building corner during training at the Mobile MOUT site July 23 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

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terrorist was holed up inside a house, we could go in and take him down.”

McCoy said the MOUT site is a fully automated area. Mannequins inside the building move, even the sounds of people talking, screaming and music emanate from speakers. Tech Sgt. Richard Webber, 387th ESFS said the training is helpful in many ways.

“It helps us to learn to work together,” he said. “We have Marines come down from up north to give us the latest intelligence on what’s working up there so we can hone our skills.”

During the training, the trainees use simulation rounds filled with paint, fired from their own weapons. Tech Sgt. Christopher Maddox, 387th ESFS, said they may be only simulation rounds, but they can still hurt.

“The last time I was out here, I got hit probably 30 or 40 times,” he said. “I had bruises all over my body.”

McCoy said teams only use MOUT sites once or twice a year. To get a chance to use one in the desert is even better.

“You can’t put a price tag on it,” he said. “We get to come out in an environment where you may actually have to use it and practice what we’ve learned.”

Maddox said the instructors have taught them a lot.

“They are great at their job,” Maddox said. “They are very thorough with their class. The information is invaluable.”

After going through the MOUT site once, the team goes back to the classroom and watches the footage. Video cameras recorded the team’s every move.

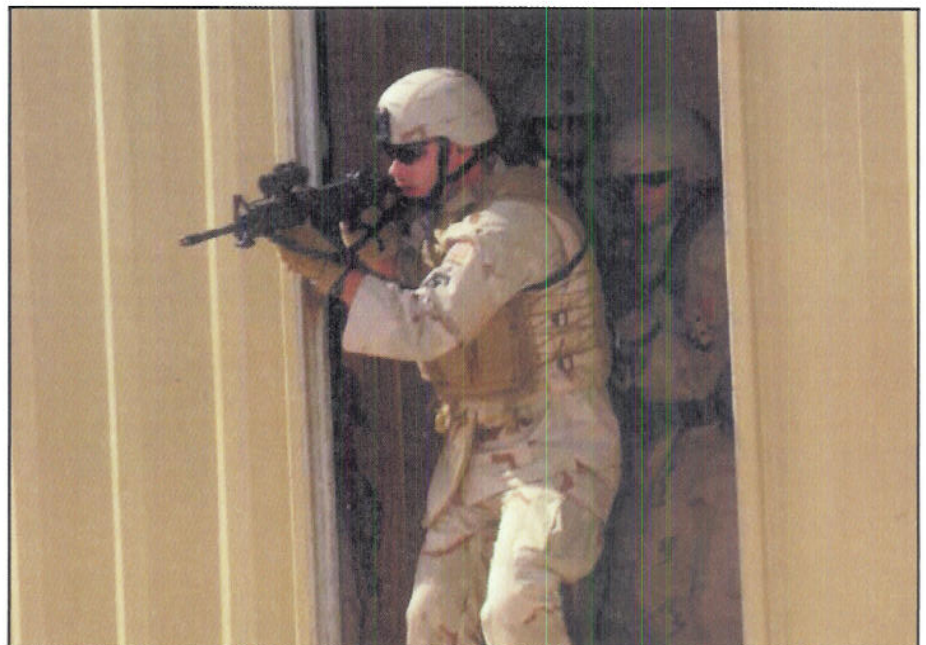
The footage helps team members see what they did right and wrong and how to correct their mistakes. Maddox said learning from a mistake can save a life – maybe their own.

“It’s life and death over here,” Maddox said. “This training will make you remember and not want to forget.” **A**



Photo by Sgt. Jacob McDonald

Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Unger, 387th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, provides security for the rest of his squadron July 23 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.



Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Unger, 387th Expeditionary Security Force Squadron, moves through a door at the Mobile MOUT site July 23 at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.